Water System Model Characteristics and Assumptions

The water management model being used for gaming has characteristics that affect its performance and its application. The model presently is very useful for exploring operations scenarios in ways that monthly planning and forecasting models cannot. However, the effect of the following characteristics on model output must be considered as we interpret water management system performance and capabilities. The model can be can be modified to some degree if necessary to accommodate some of these issues but it will be difficult to both use and improve the model simultaneously in the next few weeks.

- The Tracy and Banks pumping plants function as if they were a single diversion with a capacity of the two plants combined. Because the model does not distinguish between pumping by the SWP and CVP, it effectively incorporates joint points of diversion into all simulations.

- The model does not distinguish between the Federal and State portions of shared facilities such as San Luis Reservoir.

- The model does not include interactive operation of New Melones Reservoir.

- The simulations help us understand how the total water management system could work, but will not provide answers to questions about effects on water supplies to individual groups of users. The simulations do not account for nuances in the operation of the projects due to the Coordinated Operation Agreement.

- Another caveat, not related to the model itself, is that in preliminary simulations of the DOI b(2) scenario, it must be recognized that we are trying to make a rough approximation of the DOI accounting method.